

Form of Government of this State; and to report to the Senate what alterations should be made in its provisions, and in what mode such alterations can be most eligibly made," beg leave to submit, in part, the following

REPORT.

Your committee entered upon the performance of the highly responsible and interesting duties of their appointment, with a becoming sense of the magnitude of their task, and of its intrinsic difficulty. They fully realized that they were invested with an important and a very delicate commission:—important, because it concerned the fundamental law; and delicate, because it would bring them into conflict with local prejudices, with sectional interests, and preconceived opinions. Whatever their conclusions might be, they readily foresaw that many would condemn, and few approve. For although many are agreed that Reform is necessary and proper, very few concur in any specific proposition, or in any general plan. Some are for limited, others for general reform. Of the former class, some look, exclusively, to one thing; others, exclusively, to another. One desires some alterations in regard to the Judiciary, and in nothing else; another, in respect of the Executive; and a third, in relation to the Legislative Department. Of those who desire a general reform, as it is called, some desire that they shall be made through the medium of amendments to the Constitution; whilst others insist, that they shall be made by a convention, and by a convention alone. These last do not desire reform merely; but reform *by a convention*; and assume the ground, that however the constitution may be altered by legislative action, the majority of our people will not live under its authority. Another class assert, that "the constitution and form of government" requires no further amendment; and that it is well adapted to the wants, situation and exigencies of our people.

In addition to these extrinsic difficulties, your committee were not without apprehension of conflicting views and opinions, in their own body, likely to embarrass their proceedings. Some being citizens of one shore, and part of the other, they might be supposed to cherish correspondent partialities, and mutual distrust: and coming, as they do, from different parts of the state, and, in so far, representing different interests, it was not unreasonable